



MONTEREY

Berkshire County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Monterey is a resort town about 1200' above sea level in the Berkshires on the Mill River. Part of the Beartown State Forest is in Monterey and the vista from Monterey of Lake Garfield is considered one of the great views of the Berkshires.

Monterey was one of the four towns laid out by the Massachusetts Legislature in 1735 to develop and protect the lands along the wilderness trail which was then the only major route connecting the lower Housatonic Valley with the Connecticut Valley and Boston. Monterey was one of the two towns on the north of the trail and was the site of the original settlement of Tyringham of which it was then a part. The Great and General Court ordered the laying out of 63 home lots "in a compact and defensible form", one for each of the two ministers expected in the town, one for a school and one for each of the eventual grantees, who in turn had to provide 40 Sterling pounds security that they would settle on and improve their grants. This development made the trail safer and less difficult for travelers.

Just before the Civil War, Monterey became something of a resort town, along with many of its Berkshire neighbors, with summer homes and lots of boarding houses providing refuge for city folk searching for the clean, cool air of the mountains. In 1889, a tourist guide to the Berkshires described Monterey as "charmingly attractive", with one of the most beautiful of the area's lakes, Lake Garfield. After the first World War, this kind of visitor increased in numbers as did campers. Lake Buel, another handsome attraction, is partly in town and fishing in the Mill River for trout has been a sportsmen's lure.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative compiled from historical materials)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Southwestern Massachusetts, bordered by Tyringham on the northeast, Otis on the east, Sandisfield on the southeast, New Marlborough on the south, and Great Barrington on the west and northwest. Monterey is 27 miles south of Pittsfield and 127 miles southwest of Boston.

Total Area: 27.32 sq. miles

Land Area: 26.50 sq. miles

Population: 805

Density: 30 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Great Barrington Station)

Normal temperature in January.....20.1°F

Normal temperature in July.....68.1°F

Normal annual precipitation.....44.8"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Monterey, Great Barrington

Regional Planning Agency

Berkshire County

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 528-1443

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1847

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	503		
Democrats	182	36.2	%
Republicans	94	18.7	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	227	45.1	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Monterey town, Berkshire County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	934	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	934	100.0
Male.....	445	47.6	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	14	1.5
Female.....	489	52.4	Mexican.....	-	-
Under 5 years.....	37	4.0	Puerto Rican.....	2	0.2
5 to 9 years.....	40	4.3	Cuban.....	-	-
10 to 14 years.....	51	5.5	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	12	1.3
15 to 19 years.....	56	6.0	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	920	98.5
20 to 24 years.....	57	6.1	White alone.....	898	96.1
25 to 34 years.....	82	8.8	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	148	15.8	Total population.....	934	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	191	20.4	In households.....	854	91.4
55 to 59 years.....	64	6.9	Householder.....	387	41.4
60 to 64 years.....	54	5.8	Spouse.....	201	21.5
65 to 74 years.....	106	11.3	Child.....	197	21.1
75 to 84 years.....	42	4.5	Own child under 18 years.....	148	15.8
85 years and over.....	6	0.6	Other relatives.....	19	2.0
Median age (years).....	44.5	(X)	Under 18 years.....	3	0.3
18 years and over.....	773	82.8	Nonrelatives.....	50	5.4
Male.....	372	39.8	Unmarried partner.....	33	3.5
Female.....	401	42.9	In group quarters.....	80	8.6
21 years and over.....	741	79.3	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	185	19.8	Noninstitutionalized population.....	80	8.6
65 years and over.....	154	16.5	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	75	8.0	Total households.....	387	100.0
Female.....	79	8.5	Family households (families).....	240	62.0
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	92	23.8
One race.....	924	98.9	Married-couple family.....	201	51.9
White.....	906	96.9	With own children under 18 years.....	71	18.3
Black or African American.....	5	0.5	Female householder, no husband present.....	31	8.0
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	2	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	16	4.1
Asian.....	3	0.3	Nonfamily households.....	147	38.0
Asian Indian.....	2	0.2	Householder living alone.....	108	27.9
Chinese.....	-	-	Householder 65 years and over.....	33	8.5
Filipino.....	-	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	94	24.3
Japanese.....	1	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	112	28.9
Korean.....	-	-	Average household size.....	2.21	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	2.74	(X)
Other Asian ¹	-	-	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	2	0.2	Total housing units.....	830	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	2	0.2	Occupied housing units.....	387	46.6
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	443	53.4
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	413	49.8
Some other race.....	7	0.7	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	1.6	(X)
Two or more races.....	10	1.1	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	8.0	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	387	100.0
White.....	913	97.8	Owner-occupied housing units.....	307	79.3
Black or African American.....	8	0.9	Renter-occupied housing units.....	80	20.7
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	8	0.9	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.30	(X)
Asian.....	3	0.3	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.84	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	3	0.3			
Some other race.....	9	1.0			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	0
Conventional Federal:	0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	0
Federal (Section 8):	0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Monterey is situated in Berkshire County, a region of hills and low mountains that widen to create the Berkshire Valley in the south. The major cities and towns are linked together by U.S. Route 7. North Adams and Pittsfield are major points of entry for rail freight into Massachusetts, and the region has several commercial airports.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Route 23, which runs E-W across southern Berkshire County, and State Route 57.

Rail

There is no freight service in the town, but the Housatonic Railroad has a public delivery track in Sheffield.

Bus

Monterey is not affiliated with a regional transit authority.

Other

The Great Barrington Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility, is easily accessible. It has a 2,579'x 50' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

The Bidwell House

Art School Road

(413) 528-6888

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.